The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

"There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, 'Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'What is written in the law? How do you read it?' He said in reply, 'You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.' He replied to him, 'You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.'

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus replied, 'A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, "Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back." Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?' He answered, 'The one who treated him with mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"

The Message

The message is clear: to inherit eternal life, one must embody the love of God and extend that love to all people, just as the Good Samaritan did. This story emphasizes the importance of mercy, compassion, and action in the Christian life.

© 2024
Catholic Online - Catholic.org

Understanding the Parable

The parable teaches that the true "neighbor" is not defined by proximity, ethnicity, or religion but by one's actions of love and compassion. The Samaritan, who was traditionally despised by the Jews, is portrayed as the one who truly fulfilled the commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus uses this story to illustrate that mercy and love should extend to all people, regardless of their background.

© 2024
Catholic Online - Catholic.org